(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to sell off certain public sector hotels to private sector;

(b) if so, the name of such hotels and the reasons for selecting these hotels for privatization; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance Government are likely to gain as a result of this privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Sound and light shows at Tourism Spots

2209. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any proposal to commission sound and light shows at all major historic-cum-tourist spots in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether Government of Karnataka has forwarded a proposal for commissioning sound and light show at Kittur Fort in Belgaum District of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Tourism projects including mounting of Sound and Light Shows are identified in consultation with the State Government/U.T. Administrations and sanctioned on merit subject to availability of funds.

(c) and (d) A proposal received in this regard during 2003-04 was not approved.

Tourism Bank

2210. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to encourage the formation of tourism bank to finance infrastructure required for tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether any other institution will be asked to cater on a focused manner for funding hotel construction, etc. in the country;

(d) whether it is a fact that smaller entrepreneurs cannot get funds from the bank; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Under the Scheme "Incentives to Accommodation Infrastructure", Tourism Finance Corporation of India (TFCI) Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), IDBI, ICICI, State Financial Corporations, State Industrial Development Corporations and the Scheduled Banks have been designated to grant loans to the hoteliers/entrepreneurs for construction of hotels in the budget category i.e. one-star to three-star and Heritage Basic category to avail of capital subsidy from the Department of Tourism, Government of India.

(d) and (e) All entrepreneurs including smaller ones are eligible to get loan from the designated financial institutions and Scheduled Banks under the above said Scheme.

Promotion of Tourism

†2211. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new scheme has been formulated by Government for the promotion of tourism;

(b) if so, the amount provided in the Budget on the implementation of the said scheme; and

(c) the effective steps being taken by Government for proper implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The schemes of IX Plan for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.